

**Jail Population Management Subcommittee**  
**of the**  
**Sanford “Sandy” Krasnoff Criminal Justice Council**

MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, May 24

8<sup>th</sup> Floor Homeland Security Conference Room

1:30pm – 3:00pm

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|-------|---|----------------------|
| I.    | Opening   | Tenisha Stevens      |
| II.   | Jail Population Snapshots                         | Shelbi Flynn         |
| III.  | Summer Arrest Trends & Jail Population Management | Subcommittee Members |
| IV.   | SJC All-Sites Convening Recap                     | Al Christophe        |
| V.    | SJC Phase II Planning & Renewal Application       | Shelbi Flynn         |
| VI.   | JPM Subcommittee Membership Discussion            | Subcommittee Members |
| VII.  | Community Advisory Group Updates                  | CAG Representatives  |
| VIII. | Subcommittee Member Updates                       | Open to Members      |

## **Criminal Justice Council Jail Population Management Subcommittee Minutes**

**May 24, 2018**

On May 24, the Jail Population Management Subcommittee of the Criminal Justice Council convened at 1:34 pm in the 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Homeland Security Conference Room in City Hall. The following persons were present/absent:

### **Jail Population Management Subcommittee**

#### **Present:**

Criminal Justice Commissioner Tenisha Stevens  
– Subcommittee Chair  
Deputy Chief Paul Noel, New Orleans Police  
Department  
Al Christophe, Community Representative  
Tobie Lamy for District Administrator Steve  
Lassalle, Probation and Parole  
David Flemings for Arthur Morrell, Clerk of  
Court's Office  
Karen Wong, Community Representative  
Deputy City Attorney Eusi Phillips for Charlene  
Larche-Mason

Virginia Ryan, Orleans Parish Sherriff's Office  
Val Solino, District Attorney's Office  
Judge Camille Buras, Criminal District Court

#### **Absent:**

Jonathan Wisbey, Chief Administrative Office  
Director Darnley Hodge, Orleans Parish  
Sherriff's Office  
Judge Harry Cantrell, Criminal District Court  
Judge Paul Sens, Municipal & Traffic Court

#### **Arrived Later:**

Derwyn Bunton, Orleans Public Defenders

### **Office of Criminal Justice Coordination**

Shelbi Flynn  
Amanda Simpkins

#### **I. Opening**

Commissioner Stevens opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the Jail Population Management Subcommittee meeting. She introduced herself as the new Criminal Justice Commissioner and gave a brief overview of her background. She invited any new members to introduce themselves.

Josh Cox stated that the mayor is out of town, but she passed along a message for him to share. She believes that the jail population reduction work is critical and not just because of the budget impact, but because of the impact on the lives of citizens. She's grateful for the work being done in the Subcommittee and is looking forward to working with everyone. Hopefully she will be able to attend the next meeting.

#### **II. Jail Population Snapshots**

Shelbi Flynn went through the presentation for this month. The jail population continued to decrease and went down by about 21 people. Today's population was 1,219, which is below the SJC target. The Jail Population Trends slide showed the spike in jail population and arrests last summer that took almost a year to get back down again. The increase in arrests were primary felony arrests. The average length of stay decreased by about 6%, which means the increase in population isn't attributable to an increased length of stay.

### **III. Summer Arrest Trends & Jail Population Management**

Commissioner Stevens discussed the increase in arrests last summer. NOPD and State Police did an operation called Summer Heat, which contributed to a spike in the jail population.

Chief Noel said they're doing a revised version of the operation this year. The operation is not finalized. Deployment with State Police may be slightly less than last year.

Commissioner Stevens commented that State Police don't necessarily follow the municipal summons process and are not likely to issue a summons in lieu of arrest. She requested a dialogue before the new Operation Summer Heat begins. Chief Noel agreed.

Karen Wong asked for more details about what Operation Summer Heat is. Chief Noel explained that traditionally during the summer there's an uptick in violent crime, so NOPD tries to scale up during the summertime. Last year, they did a large narcotics operation, put taskforce officers on a six week work schedule, and brought in additional State Police. Karen Wong asked why crime goes up in summer. Chief Noel said the cause isn't clear. He clarified that Operation Summer Heat will focus on felony arrests for crimes of violence and crimes involving guns, not low-level offenders. However, if officers come across people with outstanding misdemeanor warrants, they will arrest. NOPD cannot simply let them go.

Derwyn Bunton arrived at 1:47.

### **IV. SJC All-Sites Convening Recap**

Al Christophe provided a recap of the SJC Convening in Pittsburgh. He noted that many jurisdictions face the same concerns and issues as those here in New Orleans. The focus of the convening was on sharing issues, advice, and expertise. Going forward, the SJC is concentrating on community advisory committees. New Orleans is currently the only functioning site with a Community Advisory Group (CAG). SJC will also focus in on racial and ethnic disparities in the criminal justice system.

The New Orleans delegation received several requests for information about the LEAD Diversion Program and the Public Safety Assessment (PSA), which were well received. The convening hosted eight strategy sessions and many workshops. The delegation tried to concentrate on what they could learn, possible innovative ways to engage the community, and what better strategies they could be using. They decided it would be a good idea to develop a media package in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. It would also be helpful to come together around reentry services.

A member of the public, Corinna Yazbek added that during the convening there was a graph of all 20 cities that are SJC sites. New Orleans was number four in terms of achieving their jail population target.

Susan Lindsay asked if we've officially adopted an assessment tool for Pretrial Services. Kenn Barnes, special counsel for the Louisiana Supreme Court, explained they've adopted the Arnold Foundation PSA tool for Pretrial Services. This tool has been used in over 37 different jurisdictions. The launch will be about a month from now.

### **V. SJC Phase II Planning & Renewal Application**

Shelbi Flynn explained that during the convening the foundation went over the process for renewal applications. New Orleans is eligible for a two year renewal grant. The application is due on October 15<sup>th</sup>. We can also apply for supplemental funding for community engagement activities, which would be \$200,000 over two years. There are a few key points the foundation will be evaluating. They want to see that we made progress, that we reevaluated our strategies and focused on what would be most impactful, that local leaders have demonstrated commitment to the challenge, that we've improved our monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, and that we've reduced racial and ethnic disparities.

Al Christophe asked how a spike in summer arrests could affect the grant application. Shelbi Flynn replied that theoretically if that happened it would be very bad timing for arrests to spike while we were submitting the application. Public safety and jail population reduction are not mutually exclusive. She noted that it's up to us to manage that proactively.

Commissioner Stevens said that we can research the application and wording we can use to try to explain seasonal spikes. Chief Noel remarked that it's always a challenge to balance long term goals and short term needs. The NOPD has to address the violence happening today as well. Karen Wong noted that she hoped the evaluators would see how they population spiked previously, and then we managed to get it down. Derwyn Bunton said we shouldn't presume that a spike in arrests will cause a spike in jail population. It depends on the types and kinds of arrests. If only serious offenders were in our jail, we'd already have reached our target.

Shelbi Flynn said that nothing needs to be decided today, but the Subcommittee will need to start deciding what the planning process will look like and what the role of the Subcommittee will be in that. At the next meeting, the Subcommittee will make concrete decisions about the process, so she asked members to bring ideas about what that process should look like. The planning process needs to be defined. The Subcommittee is not the appropriate mechanism to complete the application, but it should have a role in reviewing the application.

## **VI. JPM Subcommittee Membership Discussion**

Commissioner Stevens observed that there are some spots that need to be filled on the Subcommittee. The Criminal Justice Committee Chair needs to be designated by City Council. A new CAG representative will be voted on before next month's meeting. Judge Sens will be filling the Municipal & Traffic court seat, although he was unable to attend today. The Clerk of Court will be appointing a new designee for his seat. Additionally, the Subcommittee had previously discussed reevaluating membership to make sure that all stakeholders are represented.

Susan Lindsay asked about having a representative for housing.

## **VII. Community Advisory Group Updates**

Karen Wong provided an update on the Community Advisory Group. She said they're working on their bylaws now. As a group they should be completely formed within a month. They already have their two co-chairs selected. There will be a new representative identified in time for the next meeting. She expressed that the group is very pleased to be a part of the Subcommittee.

## **VIII. Subcommittee Member Updates**

There were no member updates.

Commissioner Stevens stated that she was honored to be chairing the Subcommittee and working alongside everyone. She gave her email and cell number to the members.

The meeting concluded at 2:09 pm.